

REMARKS

Claims 31, 33-35, 37-39, 42-44, 49-52, 54-57 and 61 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 31, 50 and 61 are amended. Support for the amendment to claims 31, 50 and 61 can be found in the specification, for example, at page 66, lines 5-19. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Riddle and Glick during the personal interview held January 21, 2010, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview.

The Office Action objects to the specification for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for "a computer readable medium," as recited in independent claim 61. The objection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the interview, at least page 24, line 25 - page 25, line 16 of Applicants' specification discloses a computer, a storage unit and a processor, thereby providing proper antecedent basis for "a computer readable medium." Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action (1) rejects claims 31, 33-35, 37-39, 42-44, 49-52, 54-57 and 61 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. 2002/0042664 to Kikuchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,338,925 to Tomimatu, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,808,910 to Irie et al. (Irie); (2) rejects claims 44 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kikuchi in view of Tomimatu and Irie, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,833,621 to Umatate; and (3) rejects claim 49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kikuchi in view of Tomimatu and Irie, and further in view of U.S. 2001/0034563 to Matsumoto et al. (Matsumoto). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the interview, the above-applied references do not teach "updating the correction information as needed in accordance with a magnitude of one of the calculated non-linear component of positional deviation amount of each of the measurement divided areas and a variation amount of the non-linear component within a threshold," as recited in independent claims 31, 50 and 61. As discussed during the interview, the above-applied references do not disclose updating the correction information as needed in accordance with a variation amount of the non-linear component within a threshold.

Therefore, for at least this reason, independent claims 31, 50 and 61 are patentable over the applied references. Claims 33-35, 37-39, 42-44, 49, 51, 52 and 54-57 depend from independent claims 31 or 50, thus, claims 33-35, 37-39, 42-44, 49, 51, 52 and 54-57 are also patentable over the applied references for at least their dependency on independent claims 31 or 50, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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